

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

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The government has a special responsibility to foster children and youth whom it removes from homes due to abuse or neglect. The U.S. Census and American Community Survey provide data that effects essential services for families in greatest need by compiling data on the economic status of children in foster care; the race and ethnicity of foster parents; and the overall living arrangements for foster children, including household size. The Census also enhances our understanding of the status of relative caregivers who represent over half of Los Angeles County's out-of-home placement caregivers. This data is not available from state or county foster care records.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, it was necessary to remove one of the original fifteen "relationship to head of household" categories to ensure that the 2010 Census questionnaire fits onto one page. The "foster child" category was selected because it had the fewest responses reported in Census 2000. However, the proposed broad category of categorizing foster children as "roomer or boarder" will fail to capture the unique details and circumstances of children living in out-of-home placement.

The final form of the questionnaire is subject to Congressional review and will first be considered by the House Sub-Committee on Information Policy, Census and National Archives Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. Foster children need to be counted as they have been rejected by those responsible for caring for them and now they are being rejected by their government.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare a five-signature letter to the House Sub-Committee on Information Policy, Census and National Archives urging restoration of the "foster child" category to the 2010 Census in order to demonstrate our commitment to abused and neglected children.

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MDA:hbc

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